

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed April 10, 2007 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status and Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-8, 25-40, and 46-84 are now pending.

Claims 41-45 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 9-24 have been withdrawn from consideration as the result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Independent claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for the changes is found in the Specification and figures as originally filed. No “new matter” has been added by the Amendment.

In view of the Examiner’s earlier restriction requirement, the Applicant retains the right to present claims 9-24 in a divisional Application.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1-8 and 25-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.¹ This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states:

¹ Office Action mailed April 10, 2007, ¶ 3.

The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The subject matter recited in all the independent claims “...changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are associated with a corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox are reported immediately to said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache and changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are not associated with said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are not reported to the corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache...” is not disclosed in the disclosure of the instant application.

On page 20, lines 17-21 of the instant application, the following is disclosed: “...Also, it is presently contemplated that one communication platform within the group of system communication platforms (i.e., SCPs 122a - 122n) is designated as the Master Communication Platform (“MCP”) for maintaining a global subscriber database. Each time there is a change to the global subscriber database, the master communication platform updates the subscriber databases in every SCP on the network, reflecting the changes to the global subscriber database...”. The global subscriber database mentioned in the disclosure refers to a database that includes the names or identities of the subscribers of the unified messaging network and does not relate to messages stored for subscribers in a network mailbox.

Page 31, lines 9-20 of the instant application discloses “...FIG. 6 is a flow chart of the steps taken to upload messages from a corporate communication platform (CCP) according to one embodiment of the present invention. At step 610, a timer (e.g., 60 seconds) is continuously running on the CCP. At the end of each predetermined time interval, a decision is made at step 620 depending on whether any new messages were completely received by the CCP during the previous predetermined interval. If not, the process loops back to step 610. However, if any new messages were completely received during the previous predetermined interval, then the process continues with step 630, at which point all such completely received messages are uploaded to the assigned SCP from the CCP. After step 630, the process loops back to step 610. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that many other mechanisms for uploading messages can be implemented within the scope of the present invention. For example, a message may be uploaded as soon as it is completely received, or messages could be uploaded only when a predetermined minimum number of messages have been received by a CCP..... This indicates that receiving any new messages in a master message mailbox is reported immediately to a slave message mailbox, but there is no indication of changing all messages located on the master message mailbox and its effect on an associated slave message mailbox.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to correlate the changes made to all the messages located in the master message mailbox to changes made to the global subscriber database. Appropriate action is required.²

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 have been amended to more distinctly claim example embodiments of the present invention. As noted by the Examiner, the present application discloses that receiving any new messages in a master message mailbox is reported immediately to a slave message mailbox. Regarding the Examiner's statement that "there is no indication of changing all messages located on the master mailbox and its effect on an associated slave message mailbox,"³ the Examiner is referred to the present application as originally filed, particularly FIG. 7 and p. 32, first paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-8 and 25-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Skladman et al.⁴ in view of Rigaldies et al.,⁵ among which claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.),

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure.⁶

² Office Action dated April 10, 2007, pp. 2-4.

³ Office Action at p. 4.

⁴ U.S. Patent No. 6,487,278 to Skladman et al.

⁵ U.S. Patent No. 6,792,085 to Rigaldies et al.

⁶ M.P.E.P. § 2143.

Claim 1

Claim 1 as presently amended recites:

A system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services including voice messaging, fax messaging, and e-mail messaging on a wide-area network, comprising:
one or more corporate communication platforms, each of said one or more corporate communication platforms coupled to a switched backbone, integrated with a PBX via a PBX interface, and comprising a slave message mailbox cache; and
a plurality of system communication platforms coupled to said switched backbone, wherein one such system communication platform comprises a master communication platform configured to update a subscriber database in each of said plurality of system communication platforms to reflect changes to said global subscriber database when said master communication platform determines said global subscriber database has changed, and wherein one such system communication platform comprises a master message mailbox, each of said slave message mailbox cache and said master message mailbox configured to store a plurality of message types, said message types comprising email, voicemail, and fax, wherein said slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox such that each change to said slave message mailbox is reported immediately to said one such system communication platform, each change to a message in said master message mailbox that is associated with a corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox is reported immediately to said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache, and each change to a message in said master message mailbox that is not associated with said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache is not reported to the corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache, each of said one or more corporate communication platforms assigned to one of said plurality of system communication platforms, each of said plurality of system communication platforms assigned to zero or more of said one or more corporate communication platforms.

The Examiner states:

... Skladman discloses a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a wide-area network (see Abstract; Figs. 1 a and 1 b), comprising: one or more corporate communication platforms or enterprise system that provides services to users within a predetermined enterprise, such as a business or government organization (Fig. 1b, 22) coupled to a switched backbone or Internet (Fig. 1, 56) via a router (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 6-7), integrated with a PBX or LDS (Fig. 1a, 48) via a PBX interface or PSTN (Fig. 1a, 62) (Col. 3, lines 5-47), and comprising a slave message mailbox cache or voice-mail server (Fig. 1 a, 50); and a plurality of system communication platforms or disparate messaging systems inherently coupled to said switched backbone (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 21 3)4), wherein one such system communication platform or unified

messaging center (Fig. 1a, 26) comprises a master message mailbox or unified message server (Fig. 1a, 64), wherein said slave message mailbox cache is synchronized with said master message mailbox (col. 4, line 9 - col. 5, line 6); each of said one or more corporate platforms assigned to one of said plurality of system communication platforms and each of said plurality of system communication platforms assigned to zero or more of said one or more corporate communication platforms (col. 3, lines 15-19; col. 6, lines 21-34). Skladman does not disclose said slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox. Rigaldies discloses a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a local-area network (see Abstract; Fig. 1), comprising: a communication platform (Fig. 1, 10) coupled to a switched backbone (LAN) integrated with a PBX (Fig. 1, 400) via a PBX interface or PSIN (Fig. 1, 420), and comprising a slave message mailbox cache or workstation mailbox (Fig. 1, 150); and the platform comprises a master message mailbox or voice-mail server (Fig. 1, 200), wherein said slave message mailbox cache (Fig. 1, 150) is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time (col. 12, lines 14-27; col. 20, lines 19-33) with said master message mailbox such that all changes to said slave message mailbox are reported immediately to said one such system communication platform, changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are associated with are reported immediately to the communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache (col. 3, lines 38-56), and changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are not associated with said communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are not reported to the communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache (col. 9, lines 28-36) (col. 7, lines 30-63; col. 8, line 61 - col. 9, line 1; col. 9, lines 16-27; col. 10, lines 26-45; col. 11, lines 19-32; col. 12, lines 14-27; col. 14, lines 50-57; col. 15, line 59 - col. 16, line 6). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Skladman to include said slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox as taught by Rigaldies. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a unified messaging system comprising a slave message mailbox cache that receives messages from the master message mailbox instantly and the messages in the master message mailbox are also replicated in the slave message mailbox cache in order for a user to only check one corresponding mailbox of an individual user. The slave message mailbox cache is also local to the user and easily accessible by the user. Further, to update the slave message mailbox cache when changes to all messages are reported and to prevent updates when changes should not be reported to enhance message synchronization.⁷

With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the present claims over the art of record, rendering the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection moot.

⁷ Office Action, pp. 4-6.

Rigaldies et al. discloses a system that synchronizes messages between an email store and a voicemail store; it does not disclose synchronizing messages between unified messaging stores as required by Claim 1 as presently amended. Rigaldies et al. discloses that only emails flow from an email store to the voice mail store, which is equipped to handle only receiving incoming emails and duplicating them in the voice mail store. Similarly, Rigaldies et al. discloses that only voice mails flow from voice mail store to the email store, which is equipped to handle only receiving incoming voice mails and duplicating them in the email store. Whereas Claim 1 as presently amended recites in part “a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services including voice messaging, fax messaging, and e-mail messaging.” Claim 1 as presently amended also recites in part “each of said slave message mailbox cache and said master message mailbox configured to store a plurality of message types, said message types comprising email, voicemail, *and* fax.” (emphasis added) Consequently, the system of Rigaldies et al. in view of Skladman et al. cannot synchronize, for example, two voicemail stores, while Claim 1 as presently amended contemplates such a synchronization.

Additionally, Claim 1 as presently amended recites in part “wherein one such system communication platform comprises a master communication platform configured to update a subscriber database in each of said plurality of system communication platforms to reflect changes to said global subscriber database when said master communication platform determines said global subscriber database has changed.” This is also not disclosed by the cited art of record. Support for this amendment is found in the Specification and figures as originally filed, particularly page 20 lines 17-21.

For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of Claim 1 based on Rigaldies et al. in view of Skladman et al. is unsupported by the cited art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection is requested.

Dependent Claims 2-8, 41-52, and 69

With this Amendment, Claims 41-45 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering their rejection moot. Claims 2-8, 46-52, and 69 depend from Claim 1. Claim 1 being allowable, dependent claims 2-8, 46-52, and 69 must also be allowable.

Independent Claims 25, 33, and 70

Claim 25 is an apparatus claim corresponding to system claim 1. Claim 33 is a method claim corresponding to system claim 1. Claim 70 is a means-plus-function claim corresponding to system claim 1. Claim 1 being allowable, Claims 25, 33, and 70 must also be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 26-32, 53-60, 34-40, 61-68, 71-84

As to dependent claims 26-32, 53-60, 34-40, 61-68, 71-84, the argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

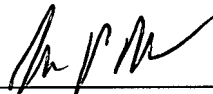
The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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